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62-9440

26 December 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

SUBJECT : Security of Voice Communications Circuitry Between the White House and Nassau

1. General Taylor called me at my quarters on Monday, the 24th, asking me if Mr. McCone or I had considered the possible serious security violations in connection with telephone talks between Washington and Nassau during the President/Macmillan conference. I told him that we had considered this and that we had informed the White House that the telephone conversations that were being held at the time were totally insecure. I gave General Taylor the gist of the memorandum, subject as above, dated 20 December to the Executive Secretary, NSC.

2. General Taylor felt that this was so serious and that the general tendency throughout the policy-making levels is to use the telephone indiscriminantly, that the intelligence community should do something about it. He thought it would be interesting to know if NSA had any read-out on these conversations. I agreed completely to his viewpoint and told him we were already on top of it but would put added emphasis on the matter. I subsequently informed Mr. McCone of our conversation.

3. Today, 26 December, I asked [redacted] of NSA to check his facility as to the possibility of having read any of these conversations. He said he would get right on it and let me know one way or the other what they might have. STAT

4. If we have such read-out, it will be most helpful in again bringing to the attention of our top-level policy-makers the necessity for the most careful security indoctrination in use of uncoded telephones and the childishness of attempting to use on-the-spot codes such as calling Castro "the bearded one," [redacted] 25X1 Macmillan "the man with the umbrella," the President as "higher

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authority" or "Prexy," etc., etc.

5. Please have the appropriate Agency offices take this under immediate consideration as to what course of action Mr. McCone might next take in furtherance of his responsibilities for the safeguarding of intelligence information.

MSC

MSC:blp

STAT

Addendum: At 1615 Mr. [redacted] informed me that he had checked all sources and they had no NSA readout on these talks — and that they would not normally monitor US or British commo. lines —

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	Executive Director	31 Dec	LBK
2	MR. [redacted]		
3			
4			
5			
6			

	ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY
	APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT		FILE		RETURN
	CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE

Remarks:

Ag: Get together with Comms, Security and Sheldon and draft a memo that DCI could send to members of the NSC Executive Committee – the only body that can do anything about it.

LBK

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27 Dec 62

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